

Afghanistan opens first ANA Volunteer Center

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Timothy M. Williams
211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

JALALABAD, Afghanistan – The grand opening for Afghanistan's first National Army Volunteer Center (NAVC) took place recently at the Governor's compound here. The Jalalabad NAVC establishes a foothold on recruiting and is the first all volunteer recruiting station set up for recruits to join the Afghanistan National Army (ANA).

"It's very significant, to have the first National Army Volunteer Center open," Capt. Christopher J. Lombardi, Recruiting Officer for Office of Military Cooperation- Afghanistan (OMC-A) said. "I think they can see the benefit of a volunteer army. They understand the value of making choices and decisions and how rewarding it can be."

The new facility is equipped with office furniture, office supplies and recruiting posters. There is also a professional recruiting officer to answer questions and show the



A recruiting officer looks over the paperwork of a potential recruit at the National Army Volunteer Center in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. The NAVC is the first all-volunteer center in Afghanistan.

lifestyle of the ANA soldier. The Jalalabad office will also provide temporary housing for up to 70 recruits awaiting transport to Kabul Military Training Complex (KMTC).

While at the NAVC the recruit will fill out paperwork for enlistment into the ANA.

They are provided three meals a day and housing until they depart for the KMTC, where they will begin 10 weeks of basic training.

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Medical relief efforts go the distance

Story by Pfc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

GARDEZ, Afghanistan – A team of American physicians made it their mission to help two ill Afghan women Aug. 20, who were discovered during a five-day operation designed to provide medical relief to the nomadic people of Paktya province.

A group of soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division and Civil Affairs Teams 12 and 13 accompanied a team of

military physicians to the remote site to provide security during the visit.

"The reason we did that house call was because the leaders in the area said they had two people that were too ill to travel," said Maj. Mary Krueger, physician, Coalition Joint Combined Military Civilian Operations Task Force.

Krueger climbed out of her vehicle upon arrival to the location and made her way to the tent that housed the two women and their families.

The two women were pained by different diseases, which Krueger soon

diagnosed as a hernia, and a sexually transmitted disease combined with a pregnancy.

"We were able to help the one woman (with the sexually transmitted disease)," said Krueger. "We gave her an injectable antibiotic for her infection as well as provide her with medication to help provide symptomatic relief."

The second woman had a hernia that had increased in size over the past 13 years. The only cure would be surgery

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



An Iraqi man carrying a picture of Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim mourns the Shiite ayatollah's death.

FBI to join Iraqi police in mosque bombing probe

NAJAF, Iraq — The FBI will assist Iraqi police in investigating the bombing near a mosque in Najaf that killed scores of people and injured more than 500 others, a U.S. official said Sunday.

Friday's bombing outside the Imam Ali Mosque, considered sacred by Shiites, killed at least 83 people, Najaf Gov. Haydar Al-Mayali told reporters Sunday at police headquarters there.

Among those killed was Shiite Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim, spiritual leader of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, and thousands of Shiites gathered Sunday in Baghdad to hold a symbolic funeral procession for him.

The FBI already has a team in Iraq investigating the bombings of the Jordanian Embassy and the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad.

The decision to include the FBI in the Najaf investigation was made by the Coalition Provisional Authority, led by L. Paul Bremer, the civilian U.S. administrator in Iraq. No details about the FBI's role were released.

Al-Mayali told reporters the blast was caused by two car bombs, not one as had been reported previously, packed with a total of 1,540 pounds (700 kilograms) of explosives.

As many as 6,000 Shiite mourners crowded the streets in the town of Kathimiya, before heading to Baghdad's al-Doura neighborhood.

The mourners will head to Najaf, where they are expected to arrive Monday or Tuesday.



Mortar shells recovered after the gun battle.

Planned attack on Indian parliament thwarted

NEW DELHI, India — Police say the man who planned a deadly attack on the Indian parliament has been killed in Kashmir along with several members of his terrorist group.

The crackdown on terrorists prevented a "spectacular" attack in India's capital by a Pakistan-based militant group, police said Sunday.

Authorities in the troubled Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir said the Indian Border Security Force fought for hours Saturday with a group of suspected militants in the Noor Bagh neighborhood of Srinagar — the state's summer capital — before entering the house where they were hiding.

Two of the suspected militants were killed, police said. One member of the Indian security force was killed and nine were wounded.

One of the dead militants, Indian officials said, was Ghazi Baba, the commander-in-chief of Jaish-e-Mohammed, or the Army of Muhammad, believed to have been the mastermind of the attack on parliament December 13, 2001.

Police Joint Commissioner Niraj Kumar said the militants were part of a plot to target "something spectacular," like important political figures or "symbols of national importance like the India Gate and Red Fort, something like that," *The Associated Press* reported.



U.S. troops continue raids in Iraq as Democrats step up criticism of the Bush administration's post-war planning.

Democrats rap Bush's postwar planning Sunday

WASHINGTON — As thousands of Iraqis converged on Najaf on Sunday to mourn the bombing death of a Shiite cleric, two U.S. senators accused the Bush administration of going to war in Iraq without a plan for peace.

At least 83 people were killed in Friday's bombing outside Imam Ali Mosque, considered sacred by Shiites, Najaf's governor said Sunday. Among the dead was Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim, spiritual leader of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq.

The attack in Najaf was the latest in a spate of violence in the Iraq.

"We need someone who understands that you don't rush into war without a plan for peace and who knows how to make that plan effective," Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, a Democrat, said on *NBC's* "Meet the Press."

Kerry, expected to formally announce his presidential candidacy Tuesday, said U.S. troops should remain in Iraq, but he does not believe more should be dispatched.

Siding with Kerry was another Democratic candidate, Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut.

Lieberman said on *CBS's* "Face the Nation" that the overthrow of Saddam Hussein was justified, but the Bush administration failed to plan beyond the war.

"Now we're faced with a real crisis in Iraq," Lieberman said. "We're in danger, the Bush administration having won the war, of losing the peace in a way that will be a terrible setback in the war against terrorism and will endanger the lives of more American soldiers over there."

President Karzai activates ANA Central Corps

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson
4th Public Affairs Detachment

POL-E-CHARKI, Afghanistan – President Hamid Karzai activated the Afghan National Army's Central Corps during a military ceremony here Saturday.

The ceremony featured a formation of several hundred ANA soldiers from various Kandaks (Battalions) in formation on a parade field set against a backdrop of ANA armored vehicles and featured Karzai handing over the Corps' flag to Maj. Gen. Mohammad Moin Faqeer, the ANA Central Corps commander.

"The ANA is for the whole nation which sacrificed almost two million people for independence and sovereignty," said Karzai to the assembled troops. "Don't allow this country to be the victim of foreign invasions any more."

The inauguration of the ANA is a major step towards the country's goal of a strong multi-ethnic military.

Maj. Gen. Karl W. Eikenberry, Chief of the Office of Military Cooperation-Afghanistan said the soldiers on the field were the result of more than 15 months of hard work by the ANA with the cooperation of international forces.

"The international cooperation in the



Maj. Gen. Mohammad Moin Faqeer, Afghan National Army Central Corps commander, accepts the corps' flag from President Hamid Karzai during the activation of the Central Corps at Pol-e-charki Saturday.

training and building of this force is unprecedented," Eikenberry said of the 30 countries that have contributed to the ANA buildup.

Although the ANA is off to a good start, Eikenberry said the "journey ahead is a long and difficult one."

The ANA Central Corps will oversee the

ANA's 1st, 2nd and 3rd Brigades and will provide a Command and Control Headquarters for the ANA – which has already deployed on combat operations within the country.

"The real strength of the Central Corps is its reputation and its honor," said Eikenberry.

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What is significant about the ribbon cutting ceremony in Jalalabad is that it provided the first wave of Afghan recruits to depart the Volunteer Center for KMTC.

Once at KMTC they begin a full day of inprocessing. This includes filling out additional paperwork asking for background information, such as name, date of birth, education, ethnicity and other basic questions. They also are fingerprinted and issued an identification card. Then the recruit receives a full medical checkup and is asked several questions by a medical doctor to ensure they are qualified for recruitment. Once the recruit qualifies they are given their uniforms and equipment and their journey begins.

As the recruits begin training, their benefits also begin. Recruits initially will be paid 2,400 Afghanis and be feed three meals a day and provided living quarters. Upon graduating from a 10-week Basic Training Program, recruits will begin their career with the ANA.

The recruits will help rebuild Afghanistan by being a part of the new ANA, as well as serve their country by providing security through a quality army.

The recruits benefits will include pay increases with promotions and time in service, and they will also benefit from other things. They include learning skills taught by excellent trainers, receiving literacy training, acquire leadership skills and help become a part of the new Afghanistan.

With new recruiting offices scheduled to open throughout the country, the idea is to form an Army of the people of Afghanistan. Not just an Army for each province and of select ethnicities and backgrounds, but an Army representing everyone to signify the country as a whole.

"The plan is to open a new NAVC in each province. Eventually the intent is having more than one per province. The idea is to get a broad mix of recruits to make a truly National Army," Lombardi said.

Part of the all-volunteer recruiting campaign is to spread the message throughout Afghanistan while reaching as many people as possible.

While many Afghan's hear about ANA through the radio or newspaper, word of mouth will be the most important factor in getting recruits to come in to the NAVC. Once there they can learn more through recruiting leaflets and video's giving information on ANA.

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and that was not an option Kruegar could provide.

"We were able to offer her medical advice (and) we did give her medication for symptomatic relief," she said.

Though Kruegar realizes that her efforts may not have changed the course of the two women's diseases completely, she said the trip offered more than just medical relief.

"Did we build some relationships and form a repore with the (Afghan people) by going out there and making that effort? Yes, I think we did," she said.

Kruegar said that the visit was interesting and just one of the many adventures she has had during her stay in Afghanistan.

"I have not been bored one day in Afghanistan," she said. "Everyday is something different."

We do make a difference out here, and where it begins is by building a relationship with the Afghan women, Kruegar said.

"I feel that women are the key to making a difference in the society because they are the ones raising the children. If you are going to make that (change) you're going to want to have a positive impact on the women," Kruegar said.

The medical care provided to the pregnant women is one example, said Kruegar.

The care we provided her with will have a positive impact on both her and her baby, she added.

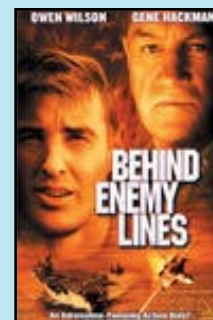
"The major thing to remember is that even though we communicate on different wavelengths and live in different worlds, they are women, intelligent in their own right," said Kruegar. "They are also women who care about their families and want the best for them."

"Whenever I get frustrated by the crowds or difficulties, I just remind myself of that," said Kruegar.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Behind Enemy Lines." A Navy navigator is shot down over enemy territory and is ruthlessly pursued by a secret police enforcer and the opposing troops. Meanwhile his commanding officer goes against orders in an attempt to rescue him.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Domestic Disturbance."



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>
<u>Bagram:</u>	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 95F L: 72F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 93F L: 72F
<u>Kandahar:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 100F L: 73F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 102F L: 72F
<u>Kabul:</u>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 93F L: 63F	<i>Haze</i> H: 93F L: 64F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	<i>Clear</i> H: 97F L: 59F	<i>Clear</i> H: 98F L: 57F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)



The Rocket tips his hat to the fans in Boston Sunday. Clemens played 13 years and won 192 games as a Boston Red Sox.

Clemens' hits century mark, Yanks defeat Red Sox 8-4 Sunday

BOSTON — Roger Clemens got his 100th win at Fenway Park in his final regular-season start there, and the New York Yankees moved 5½ games ahead of Boston in the AL East with an 8-4 victory over the Red Sox on Sunday.

Clemens struck out three, walked two and allowed four runs on six hits in 6 2-3 innings as the Yankees took two of three games in the series.

Boston threatened in the ninth, loading the bases against Jeff Nelson on singles by David McCarty and Lou Merloni and a two-out walk to Jason Varitek. But Mariano Rivera got his 31st save in 37 chances when he struck out Nomar Garciaparra, who went 0-for-5.

When Clemens left after walking Gabe Kapler to load the bases with two outs in the seventh, the capacity crowd gave him a standing ovation. It continued as he stood in the dugout so he came out, waved and tipped his hat.

Clemens (13-8) is 100-55 at Fenway, where he played for Boston from 1984-96. He plans to retire after the season and would pitch there again only if the teams meet in the playoffs.

He rebounded from a 13-2 loss Tuesday to the Chicago White Sox in which he allowed four homers and nine runs. On Sunday, he got plenty of support with a three-run first inning.

The Red Sox, who hoped to cut New York's lead to 1 game, after winning Friday night, helped him with shoddy fielding.

Substitute center fielder Kapler made two errors in a two-run fifth and catcher Doug Mirabelli made a throwing error that allowed two more runs to score in the seventh.

The victory was tempered a bit by an injury to Derek Jeter, who left with a slight muscle strain in his left ribcage after reaching on a single in the seventh. It was not known if he would miss any games.

The Red Sox were more short-handed.

They played their third straight game without left fielder Manny Ramirez, sidelined with a throat infection. Center fielder Johnny Damon

also missed the game after being shaken up Saturday in a collision with Kapler, who had filled in for Ramirez in left.

Steelers' Porter shot outside Denver sports bar Sunday

DENVER — Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker Joey Porter was seriously wounded in a shooting outside a sports bar early Sunday that left one person dead and five wounded, police said.

Porter's agent Mike Sullivan told *ESPN* that Porter was shot in the buttocks. Doctors are still evaluating whether to perform surgery to remove the bullet. Sullivan said the injury is serious but not career-threatening.



Joey Porter

Police spokesman Sonny Jackson said Porter, 26, who was in Denver for the Colorado State-Colorado football game, was not involved in any confrontation. Porter, a five-year veteran who was selected to last season's Pro Bowl, is a Colorado State graduate.

"He was an innocent bystander. There was no confrontation or altercation that we know of at this time," Jackson said. No arrests were made, and Jackson would not say whether a weapon was recovered.

Denver Health Medical Center would not confirm that Porter was there, citing federal privacy laws that permit patients to block the release of their names.

The shooting occurred outside the All Sports Bar in northeast Denver at 1:47 a.m., Jackson said.

Jackson said the shots were fired from outside a fenced-in parking lot where the victims were standing.

Steelers coach Bill Cowher said the team would not place Porter on injured reserve, which would sideline him for the season.

"The bullet entered his left buttocks and is lodged in his right thigh," Cowher said Sunday. "All the preliminary tests are being done and, at this time, it looks as though the bullet did not hit any vital organs. He is resting comfortably in the hospital, and we are in the process of ... trying to fly him back here (Monday)."

Cowher did not speculate how long Porter would be out. Losing Porter for a substantial period would be a major blow to a defense that was the NFL's best in 2001 and ranked seventh overall last season.

"Joey's going to be fine; he'll be back," Cowher said. "He's a special guy, and he'll be back."

Cowher talked to Porter on Sunday and said the linebacker was distraught over getting hurt with the season about to start. The Steelers otherwise came through the preseason with no serious injuries.

"He's as well as can be expected. He feels like he's let the football team down. He was really emotional," Cowher said.

Porter, a third-round draft pick in 1998, played in his first Pro Bowl last season. He became the first player since sacks became an official statistic in 1982 to have nine sacks and four interceptions.

Considered one of the league's best all-around linebackers, Porter also had two fumble recoveries and two forced fumbles last season.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Two U.S. Soldiers Killed in Afghan Combat

Story by NOOR KHAN

QALAT, Afghanistan (*Associated Press*) – Two American soldiers were killed Sunday in a firefight with suspected Taliban fighters in eastern Afghanistan, the latest in increasing fighting between U.S.-led forces and remnants of the country's ousted regime.

The soldiers were killed in a remote region outside the town of Shkin near the Pakistani border. At the same time, hundreds of Taliban reinforcements moved into a mountainous region in southern Afghanistan where U.S. and Afghan forces have been pounding guerrilla hide-outs in a battle over the past week.

The U.S. military said U.S. troops were on a "combat mission" northwest of Shkin when they came under attack. Three Americans were wounded in the initial assault.

A rapid reaction team was called in and a 90-minute battle ensued, the military said. Four insurgents were killed. Two A-10 warplanes took off to provide air support, but did not open fire.

Four insurgents were killed in the clash, it said. Two of the wounded Americans died, and the third was taken to Bagram Air Base north of Kabul, the main U.S. base in Afghanistan, for treatment.

The deaths brought to four the number of American soldiers killed during fighting in Afghanistan in less than two weeks. Amid reports that the Taliban are regrouping - along with other Afghan and al-Qaida allies - U.S.-led forces in the country have come under increasingly ferocious attack.

In southern Afghanistan, U.S. fighter jets and helicopters pounded suspected Taliban positions Sunday in a fresh assault in the rugged mountain peaks where the Americans and their Afghan allies have been besieging insurgents.

Airstrikes went on for three hours overnight in the Dai Chupan district of Zabul province, then resumed Sunday morning, Afghan officials said. Fighting died down after the strikes, and Afghan troops were moving in on some of the bombed positions, Gen. Haji Saifullah Khan said from the scene of the fighting.

In one area, Afghan soldiers swept through the area following the bombing and claimed to have seen 14 newly killed Taliban fighters, said Khalil Hotak, the province's intelligence chief. There were no reports of casualties among government forces.

Dozens of Taliban fighters are reported to have been killed and several others arrested so far in the fighting about 42 miles north of Qalat, the provincial capital, although it has been impossible to get independent confirmation of casualty figures.

"We are tightening the siege against them step by step. We will either capture them alive or take the force out of them," Hotak said.

Khan said Sunday that intelligence indicated more than 250 Taliban reinforcements had arrived from the neighboring district of Mizan.

"We have an informer among these people (Taliban)," Khan told AP. He spoke by satellite telephone from Larzab, on the front

line of the battle.

About 500 Afghan soldiers had been earlier reported involved in the battles with the Taliban. Hotak said reinforcements have been sent and about 800 Afghan soldiers were in the region now.

On Sunday, Hotak said hundreds of American troops were in Dai Chupan, but the U.S. military did not confirm that claim. He earlier said there were 60 to 70 U.S. soldiers.

The U.S.-led coalition has 11,500 soldiers in Afghanistan - most of them Americans - to hunt down Taliban and al-Qaida fighters, mainly in the south and east of the country.

Last week, two American soldiers were killed, one from an accidental fall during fighting on Friday, the other from hostile fire near Orgun in Paktika province.

Fighters from the Taliban militia, which was ousted by a U.S.-led coalition in late 2001, appear to be regrouping. Their recent attacks have been bolder and better coordinated.

"You shouldn't look at this as a career ending disaster, but more as a new found respect for safety equipment."



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By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support